

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 11013 051644Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 11013

EXDIS

BRUSSELS FOR LEDSKY AND FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, GR
SUBJECT: FIRST MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PAPALIGOURAS

1. I CALLED ON NEW FOREIGN MINISTER PAPALIGOURAS DECEMBER 3. AFTER AN EXCHANGE OF PLEASANTRIES, DURING WHICH HE NOTED HE HAD RECEIVED ME WITHIN 72 HOURS OF HIS APPOINTMENT AS A SIGN OF HIS DESIRE TO WORK VERY CLOSELY WITH USG, HE ASKED WHETHER WE HAD DRAWN THE APPROPRIATE LESSONS FROM THE GREEK ELECTION RETURNS. I SAID WE WERE IN THE PROCESS OF ANALYZING THE ELECTIONS TO THE EXTENT IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR FOREIGN OBSERVERS TO DO SO, BUT I WOULD BE GLAD TO HAVE HIS OWN VIEWS OF HOW THEY MIGHT RELATE TO OUR ABILITY TO MAKE PROGRESS IN COMMON AREAS OF INTEREST.

2. PAPALIGOURAS REPLIED THAT HE WANTED TO BE SURE THERE WAS NO DOUBT ON OUR PART THAT BOTH THE PRIME MINISTER AND HE WERE TRUE FRIENDS OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE WEST AND WANT TO DO EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO RESTORE GOOD RELATIONS AND RESOLVE THOSE DIFFERENCES WHICH STILL STAND IN THE WAY. PAPANDREOU, HOWEVER, IS NOW IN A POSITION TO CAUSE MORE TROUBLE THAN BEFORE AND THE GOG
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WILL HAVE TO BE MORE CAREFUL IN WHAT IT DOES. THE GOG WILL ALSO NEED MORE HELP FROM THE U.S. THAN IT HAS SOMETIMES HAD IN THE PAST.

3. I ASKED WHAT KIND OF HELP HE HAD IN MIND, POINTING OUT THAT MORE OPEN U.S. SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE TO THE GOG MIGHT BE JUST THE KIND OF AMMUNITION PAPANDREOU COULD EXPLOIT. PAPALIGOURAS RE-

COGNIZED THIS BUT SAID HE HAD MEANT THAT USG SHOULD GIVE GOG MORE HELP IN DEALING WITH TURKEY AND THE EC. DID I THINK, FOR INSTANCE, THAT WE WERE DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PRESSURE TURKEY INTO MAKING THE CONCESSIONS WHICH WERE THE NECESSARY FIRST STEP TO RESOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS ISSUE?

4. I REFERRED TO THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE USG AND GOT WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON ABOUT WHICH AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS HAD BEEN BRIEFED AND NOTED WE WERE SOMEWHAT ENCOURAGED ABOUT TURKEY'S WILLINGNESS TO TAKE POSITIVE ACTIONS. THIS WAS UNDOUBTEDLY A SUBJECT PAPALIGOURAS WOULD LIKE TO ASK SECRETARY VANCE ABOUT WHEN THEY MEET IN BRUSSELS. PAPALIGOURAS SAID HE CERTAINLY WILL DO SO, AND HE WANTS ALSO TO BE SURE THE SECRETARY UNDERSTANDS THE GOG'S CURRENT VIEW OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN SITUATION AND PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS.
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